FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

(2)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Other Individuals and Organizations Involved or Interviewed

Date 3/25/64

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Dr. FERNANDO PENABAZ, age 45, resident at 2805 Southwest Fourth Avenue, Miami, Florida, advised he had graduated from Duke University in 1939; subsequently attained his Law Degree from the University of Havana, and had practiced Law in Cuba, as well as being engaged in newspaper writing before coming to the United States as an exile from the CASTRO regime as of June, 1960.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he is currently active in preparation of radio programs broadcast over 110 radio stations in eleven Latin American countries. He said these programs are directed against the CASTRO regime. He said he has also been a writer for the "Fort Lauderdale News", published at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and for the "Jefferson City News Tribune", published at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he was invited to speak at the Third Annual National Anti-Communist Leadership School, sponsored by the Christian Crusade, which was held at the Captain Shreve Hotel, Shreveport, Louisiana, during February 10-14, 1964. He said the Christian Crusade has as its founder and director the Reverend BILLIE JAMES HARGIS.

Dr. PENABAZ stated that during the period of his visit at Shreveport, he recalled having a visit in the room of the Reverend HARGIS, at which General EDWIN WALKER was present, and also another individual, whom he did not specifically recall to be Reverend FREDERICK FOWLER, although he did not recall who else it might have been. He stated that during this visit, a discussion developed over the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

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On 3/16/64 at Miami, Florida File # Miami 105-8342

by SAs JAMES J. O'CONNOR and PETER J. NERO:plm Date dictated 3/28/64

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It is not likely Penabaz did not identify the distributor of his broadcasts "over 110 radio stations in eleven Latin American countries". More likely, this is FBI editing-for-protection of friends. This is a close to perfect description of the so-called "Information Council of the Americas", the creature of one Edward Scannell Butler, who has for years lived well and built a reputation on right-wing largess. Butler was forced out of an earlier committee of similar purposes. It found his John Birch Society connec-

It was pointed out to Dr. PENABAZ that information had been received attributing to Dr. PENABAZ various statements regarding the assassination which made more specific details desirable.

With respect to information that the assassination arose from an agreement between President KENNEDY and Premier KHRUSHCHEV for the elimination of FIDEL CASTRO with a provision that Cuba remain communistic, Dr. PENABAZ said he would never make such a general remark that could not be logically proven. He said that while such a theory is not contradictory in itself, he would not have voiced it without making clear that it was pure speculation. He stated he has never observed so many pundits pour forth so many distorted remarks as have been made concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY. Dr. PENABAZ stated he probably did say that one could argue in favor of the thesis that CASTRO may have had reasons to eliminate President KENNEDY, since it was evident that CASTRO seemed to realize that President KENNEDY wanted him deposed as the leader in Cuba. Dr. PENABAZ said that in a speech by CASTRO made at the Brazilian Embassy in Havana about the beginning of September, 1963, which speech was reported in the American press, CASTRO virtually threatened President KENNEDY by a statement to the effect that leaders threatening him (CASTRO) better be careful, because they, too, could suffer accidents. Dr. PENABAZ stated significant with this remark by CASTRO was information, unconfirmed, but received by the Cuban exile colony, that about three weeks prior to the speech of CASTRO at the Brazilian Embassy, an attempt had been made on CASTRO's life, with the result that someone was, in fact, killed. Dr. PENABAZ stated this may or may not be true.

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tions, his previous experience as a male model, and his being a drop-out from two colleges, as well as his extreme right-wing views, not the qualifications they preferred. He thereupon founded INCA and attracted to it such ultra-conservatives as Dr. Alton Ochsner, on whose name he traded heavily. INCA was on its last legs when the President was assassinated. Butler then proclaimed himself the one who "exposed" Oswald's "Communist" connections (non-existent, but loudly claimed by the unaided Oswald), Ochsner declared that, if INCA had been listened to, the President's assassination might have been prevented, and Butler exploited his connections with the Senate Internal Security Committee to give "testimony", of which he boasted, to Senator Thomas Dodd. It has never been published. One can imagine its character. After Oswald was arrested following an assault upon him by Carlos Bringuier, which ended with guilty Bringuier pleading innocent and innocent Oswald pleading guilty, with Oswald's loud assertion he was a "Marxist" with a New Orleans Fair Play for Cuba Committee (non-existent) and Bringuier's assumption of a heroic role, a Bringuier associate, Manuel Gil, then INCA production manager, arranged for a "debate" with Butler. Thus, Bringuier and Butler established the anti-Communist Oswald as a "Communist", giving

Dr. PENABAZ stated he possessed no information concerning a trip to Cuba by OSWALD or the awarding of $10,000 to OSWALD as payment in the assignment to assassinate President KENNEDY.

Dr. PENABAZ stated that the most known concerning OSWALD's connection with Cuba was the fact that he had gone to Mexico prior to the assassination, and that the Mexican authorities took measures against a girl in the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City with whom OSWALD had contact. As possible indication that the Cuban Government was interested in OSWALD, the CASTRO Government protested the detention of the girl assigned to the Cuban Embassy, although she was a Mexican citizen.

With respect to information that the "National Review", a publication at New York City with which writer WILLIAM BUCKLEY is associated, had reported that a "New York Times" reporter had obtained from a very good source the story of OSWALD's trip to Mexico and subsequent return to the United States with the sum of $10,000, but that the "New York Times" mysteriously withheld the story, Dr. PENABAZ stated as follows:

This was the first he had heard of this situation, and he highly doubted its accuracy, since he believes that if anyone had such facts concerning the assassination, nothing could prevent publication of the story over all the world.

With respect to information that OSWALD, on return from his alleged trip to Cuba, was accompanied by QUINTIN PINO,

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him what in intelligence is called a "cover". This is discussed in OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS. The assassination thus became INCA's salvation, for it was broke and about to collapse; Bringuier's ticket to fame and the Hargis lecture circuit; and Butler's gravy wagon. After several years living off INCA, whose amateur outpouring was indistinguishable from official government anti-Castro propaganda, Butler latched onto the Schick Razor Co., whose ownership (and advertising) is right-wing. It enabled him to start a slick but not very bright or successful magazine called The Village Square, Butler this time exploiting student ferment and dissatisfaction and Schick's fear of anything less than reaction. In 1969, it started him on a TV show called, modestly, "The Square World of Ed Butler", and an undisguised plug for the floundering magazine. During the November peace demonstration in Washington, Butler staged a "counter-demonstration" that qualifies as the biggest flop of all time, his 20 or so "Young Americans for Freedom" followers against the quarter-million or more estimated peace demonstrators. This failure seems to have been designed to frighten his extremist backers for, soon after this fiasco, Butler's inept and boring amateur hour of ultra-right drivel appeared on Washington's WTTG-TV. On the show aired there the Sunday before Christmas, he presented as the answer to dissatisfied youth one Louis T. Byers, self-styled dictator of the "National Youth Alliance". As Byers approaches his fourth

who was to take OSWALD to Cuba after the assassination, Dr. PENABAZ stated he had not made such a statement to anyone as being fact. He stated he had heard of an alleged plot wherein QUINTIN PINO had crossed into Texas from Mexico for the purpose of rescuing OSWALD after the assassination, but that the plan failed because OSWALD was not wearing clothing of the prearranged color, whereby he would be readily recognized by PINO, and also, since OSWALD became involved in the shooting of Dallas Policeman TRIPPITT, OSWALD failed to reach the rendezvous at the time PINO would pick him up.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he had heard this story concerning PINO from MIGUEL DE LEON, whom he described as a former Cuban Congressman with contacts throughout Central America. He said that according to DE LEON, QUINTIN PINO was a strongman in the diplomatic service of FIDEL CASTRO, and had been sent by CASTRO to Nicaragua as of 1959 to organize anti-government guerrillas there.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he has never written any article in his news columns concerning the matter of QUINTIN PINO, because it is just the remark of one person to him, and may have no basis in fact. He said that for the same reason, he had not reported such information to government authorities.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he had made no such statement that OSWALD had been shot by JACK RUBY for failing to follow the escape plan after the assassination. Dr. PENABAZ stated he may have said that such a possibility existed, but he would definitely have qualified it as purely a possibility.

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decade, like Butler, he becomes one of the older "youths". This openly fascistic group, which is opposed to and distrusts democracy, traces to the Wallace youth movement of the 1968 campaign, was also called the "Francis Parker Yockey" movement, and has as two of its five advisers retired general officers who are virulently anti-Semitic and made financial contributions to the American Nazi Party. Yockey, before his mysterious death from poison in prison, wrote a book, Imperium. It is an American Mein Kampf, easily the most vicious work of American racism. Imperium is the National Youth Alliance bible. Publisher of Imperium is "Noontide Press", of Sausalito, Calif., owned by Willis Carto. It also pub- converted into another right-extremist organ.) It also publishes other extremist, pseudo-intellectual books. One, called The Myth of the Six Million, attempts to prove that the Hitler gas-chambers and racist exterminations are a "Jewish myth". Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, in their "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column, exposed Carto's seizure of the Wallace youth as a "neo-Nazi grab". (Paul Valentine has also exposed the NYA in several excellent articles in the Washington Post.) The Pearson-Anderson April 21, 1969, column reports the NYA's January 25 meeting was opened with the singing of the Nazi anthem, the

Dr. PENABAZ stated that although he could not recall speaking with Reverend FOWLER of Minnesota, he did do a lot of talking while in Shreveport, and much of it in the field of conjecture regarding the assassination. He said that the Reverend FOWLER is undoubtedly confusing what statements may have been made by Dr. PENABAZ with other statements or reading material known to Reverend FOWLER.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he had not heard any statement to the effect that the garage mechanic at Dallas, Texas who had observed OSWALD in the Dallas theater, following the assassination, had been mysteriously killed.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he had made no such statement, either to Reverend FOWLER or anyone else, that his information concerning the alleged agreement between President KENNEDY and Premier KHRUSHCHEV to depose CASTRO, or any of the other speculations on the assassination, had been received by him from a good friend in Cuba. He said that Reverend FOWLER was definitely confused in such a statement, and he believed Reverend FOWLER was possibly confusing the statements he had received from various individuals at Shreveport. He said that possibly Reverend FOWLER had also talked to CARLOS BRINGUIER, a resident of New Orleans, who was present at the meeting in the Captain Shreve Hotel.

Dr. PENABAZ stated he had never heard any statement or information to the effect that LEE HARVEY OSWALD and JACK RUBY were members of a six-member communist cell active in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. PENABAZ stated all his information concerning OSWALD is hearsay, and he knows no one other than CARLOS BRINGUIER of New Orleans, Louisiana who had any personal contact with LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

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"Horst Wessel Lied". Its highlight was a phoned-in message from "adviser" Revilo Oliver, notorious anti-Semite who found the John Birch Society too leftist for him. Carto's Nazi-style seizure of the Wallace youth led to mass resignations of former leaders, who explained their resignations and their inability to cope with Carto's financial resources in a March 24 letter to local NYA leaders. In it, they said the "older people" who had taken over had been its financial support. This column also reports these "youth" secretly celebrated Hitler's birthday. Carto founded and controls the so-called "Liberty Lobby", a rightist pressure group that raises money for and otherwise supports the farther-right legislators. On his "square" show, Butler introduced NYA fuehrer Byers with a big boost for Imperium, which he showed, conspicuously, on camera. Butler closed the show with an even fatter plug for the again-held-up racist book. Thus, Butler and his backers establish their own brand of "Americanism" and "patriotism" - racism and authoritarianism - as the answer to current American problems. Penabaz is as welcome and happy in such company as he is in Hargis's, and his fabrications and propaganda are no more out of the prevailing spirit and belief.